--The present invention further provides uses of the improved barstar DNAs and improved barstar proteins to neutralize barnases in plant cells, particularly with regard to restoration of male fertility to male-sterile lines.--

B2

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A male sterile plant as used herein, contains a foreign "male-sterility locus" which contains the male-sterility gene S which when expressed in cells of the plant makes the plant male-sterile without otherwise substantially affecting the growth and development of the plant.--

B3

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Sterility promoters that can be used in the male-sterility genes in the first parent line of this invention have been described before (EP 0,344,029 and EP 0,412,911). The sterility promoter can be any promoter but it should at least be active in stamen cells, particularly tapetum cells. Particularly useful sterility promoters are promoters that are selectively active in stamen cells, such as the tapetum-specific promoters of the TA29 gene of Nicotiana tabacum (EP 0,344,029) which can be used in tobacco, oilseed rape, lettuce, chicory, corn, rice, wheat and other plant species; the PT72, the PT42 and PE1 promoters from

B4

rice which can be used in rice, corn, wheat, and other plant species (WO 92/13956); the PCA55 promoter from corn which can be used in corn, rice, wheat and other plant species (WO 92/13957); and the A9 promoter of a tapetum-specific gene of Arabidopsis thaliana(Wyatt et al., 1992, Plant Mol. Biol. 19:611-922).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Seven transgenic male fertile restorer rice plants of cultivar Chiyonishiki were obtained essentially as described in WO 92/13956 using plasmid pTS173 which contains the following chimeric genes: P35S-bar-3'g7 and PE1-wild-type barstar-3'nos. pTS173 is derived from pJVR3-E1 (WO 92/13956) by replacing the 35S promoter and the 3' untranslated end of the chimeric bar gene of pJVR3-E1 by the 35S promoter and the 3' untranslated end of the chimeric bar gene of pTTS24 as follows. From the T-DNA insert of plasmid pTTS24 (SEQ ID No. 7) a DNA fragment containing the 3' end of T-DNA gene 7 and part of the bar gene is amplified by PCR using the oligonucleotide primers CASOLX1 (SEQ ID No 8), which overlaps the KpnI site in the bar gene, and CASOLX2 (SEQ ID No 9). The PCR product is cleaved with AatII and KpnI, and ligated to the large fragment of plasmid pJVR3-E1 cleaved with AatII and KpnI. From the obtained plasmid, the smaller NcoI+NotI (containing P35S) is replaced by the corresponding NcoI-NotI

B5 cont fragment from pTTS24 (positions 880 to 2281 in SEQ ID No 7), resulting in pTS173.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claim:

B6 1. (Amended) A DNA comprising a barstar coding sequence, which, when expressed in a plant cell, is capable of improved inhibition of barnase, wherein said barstar coding sequence has an AT content of less than 40%.

B7 9. (Amended) The process of claim 8, wherein said promoter is the promoter of the TA29 gene of tobacco, the promoter of CA55 gene of corn or the promoter of the E1, the T72 or the T42 gene of rice.

Attached hereto is a version with markings showing changes made to the application by this Reply.